



Saint Louis County

Administration • 100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 202 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2450 • Fax: (218) 726-2469 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:

January 7, 2014

CONTACT: Dana Kazel, Communications Manager
(218) 725-5049 office • (218) 591-2219 cell

Two County purchasers earn national certification credential

Donna Viskoe, senior buyer in the St. Louis County purchasing division; and Life Verlooy, a buyer in the same division, have each achieved the status of Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO). They are among 130 purchasing professionals to achieve this credential this year. The designation is awarded by the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC) to candidates who demonstrate through an applications process that they meet specific requisites established by the UPPCC. This includes formal education, procurement related coursework and training, public procurement experience and functional management experience. The final requirement is to pass a comprehensive written exam, which Viskoe and Verlooy completed earlier in the fall.

“Public procurement professionals at the federal, state and local levels are responsible for the appropriate expenditure of over \$4.85 trillion in public funds,” said Norma Hall, chair of the UPPCC Governing Board. “It is critical that public buyers and managers demonstrate to stakeholders their integrity, credibility, knowledge and the skills necessary to carry out the job they have been entrusted to do.”

Viskoe has worked for St. Louis County since 2004. Verlooy was hired in 2011. Their CPPO designation is valid for five years.

Established in 1964, the CPPO certification recognizes individuals employed in the public procurement profession as an asset to their division of governmental administration.

###



*Donna Viskoe, CPPO
Senior Buyer, St. Louis County Purchasing Division*



*Life Verloy, CPPO
Buyer, St. Louis County Purchasing Division*